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The following letter from the Hon. C. E. Mitchell, while Commissioner of Patents, to Little, Brown & Co., of Boston, will be read with great pleasure by all who have ever been under Prof. Robinson's instruction:

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE, }  
WASHINGTON, July 30, 1891. }

MESSRS. LITTLE, BROWN & CO.:

*Gentlemen:*—I have examined Robinson on Patents, not only with reference to its character as a scientific treatise upon the subject of patent law, but also with reference to its value as a guide to the practitioner. In both respects I find it to be easily without a rival. As a profound and exhaustive presentation of all that pertains to the science and administration of the most abstruse branch of the law it is a most marvellous production; and as a practical guide to inventors, solicitors, and lawyers having business in the courts and dealings in the Patent Office, it anticipates every difficulty and meets every requirement. I look upon it as one of those noble works, appearing at rare intervals, the product of a richly-stored intellect and a praiseworthy ambition to excel, which places the profession under lasting obligation and entitles the author to be ranked among the foremost of the world's great jurists. Every patent lawyer will find it indispensable, and no patent solicitor can afford to dispense with its invaluable assistance.

Very respectfully,

C. E. MITCHELL,  
*Commissioner of Patents.*

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*A Dictionary of Law.* By Henry Campbell Black, M. A., author of treatises on "Judgments," "Tax Titles," etc. St. Paul, Minn., West Publishing Co., 1891, pp. 1253.

The author has certainly attained the objects which he sets forth in his preface, comprehensiveness and conciseness. His plan being to create a dictionary pure and simple, accordingly clear and concise definitions are the rule, and their number warrants his claim to comprehensiveness thus successfully covering the special fields of other dictionaries. At the same time it is a question how much can be safely sacrificed to conciseness; for while the definitions are admirable, the authorities and examples are less numerous than in other similar publications, though this is but following the plan of the book which "does not purport to be a compilation of the body of the law." An increase in the number of cross-references would render the matter more available. It is clearly printed and well supplied with alphabetical guides, but its bulk might well be reduced by using thinner paper of equal durability.